

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

August 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Literacy and Mathematics Intervention Materials for Middle School Grades 6–8

During the *Consent Items* discussion on June 27, 2023, Ms. Smondrowski requested the following information.

**Question**

Please provide additional information regarding contract item 4883.1—Literacy and Mathematics Intervention Materials for Middle School Grades 6–8—Extension; Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Academic Officer—Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Description: Contract extension for evidence-based tier 3 literacy and math intervention programs for Grades 6–8; Awardee Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, Boston, Massachusetts (\$112,192).

**Response**

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) consistently has directed educators to implement interventions grounded in research. Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), districts and schools were called to use "scientifically based research" as the foundation for education programs and interventions. This has been replaced by "evidence-based interventions" under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA). Many ESSA programs encourage state educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools to prioritize and include evidence-based interventions, strategies, or approaches.

Evidence-based interventions are practices or programs that have evidence to show that they are effective at producing results and improving outcomes when implemented. The evidence described in ESSA generally has been produced through formal studies and research.

Both the Math 180 and System 44 programs have been identified as having strong evidence as an evidence-based intervention that is effective with Emergent Multilingual Learners (EMLs) with interrupted formal education, enrolled in the Multidisciplinary Education, Training,

and Support program, at the middle and high school levels. These licenses will provide instructional support to some of our most vulnerable EMLs for both literacy and mathematics.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Peggy A. Pugh, chief academic officer, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, via email, or Dr. Kisha Logan, director of pre-k–12 curriculum, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, via email.

MBM:PKM:PAP:kl

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Dr. Logan

Ms. Webb